

suppress or steal any election should be investigated and prosecuted.

Even if the nefarious activity was minor—and not likely to alter the outcome of an election—individuals who engage in such acts should be held accountable in a court of law. Noone has a license to cheat.

Sixteen years ago, some Democratic members of the Senate and House tried to overturn the results of the Bush-Kerry Presidential election. They failed. When counting the electoral votes on January 6, 2005, I voted “no” on the objection to accepting Ohio’s electors—enough to reverse the outcome of the election—sponsored by Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-Oh) because the allegations lacked both merit and proof. Only 31 Members of the House voted in favor of the election changing objection.

Congress, states and local governments need to undertake a top-to-bottom review of election law and administrative policies to ensure that elections are free and fair.

The future of our Nation depends on it.

Finally, I unequivocally condemn the assault on the Capitol today. And those who committed violence, vandalism and other crimes should be prosecuted to the greatest extent of the law.

Special thanks to the Capitol Police and all law enforcement for their brave and decisive actions to mitigate and then end today’s crisis.

Despite its many flaws, the U.S. Congress continues to be an extraordinary marketplace of ideas and differing opinions.

The enactment of wise public policy to benefit all Americans requires robust dialogue and debate—and genuine respect for one another especially when there is fundamental disagreement.

We must be committed to zero-tolerance towards violence in any form.

#### OBJECTION TO ELECTORAL COLLEGE

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 6, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I am filled with sadness and anger following the attack on the U.S. Capitol today. It is the result of a fever that has been building for weeks, months and years and which has only been further incited by President Trump. Today is a point of inflection and reflection, and we need to say enough. This only strengthens our resolve to get the Electoral Votes counted and certified and continue with a peaceful transition of power, as has been a hallmark of our nation.

The vote was decisive. Despite the ongoing pandemic, we saw a historic 158 million Americans vote. Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS won 306 votes in the Electoral College after earning the support of more than 81 million Americans. After 60 failed lawsuits and dozens of recounts, there is not one shred of evidence of major fraud in this election. Yet ever since Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS won this election, there has been a concerted effort to overturn the will of the voters. These objections are unfounded, absurd and dangerous. They are contrary to 60 courts which denied claims of fraud or vote improprieties. I am sad-

dened to see many of my colleagues continue to peddle these lies and falsehoods instead of supporting the peaceful transition of power enshrined in our Constitution.

Our elections are among the safest and most transparent in the world. For that, I want to thank the tens of thousands of Americans who work to secure our elections each and every year, including Colorado’s elections officials and workers who continue to exemplify a successful mail-in voting system and workers for Dominion Voting Systems based in Colorado. Unfortunately, due to these baseless attacks on the election results, many of these election workers have been threatened and intimidated. Yet these poll workers did their duty and counted the votes, shepherding and overseeing one of the most fundamental and integral pillars of our democracy—free, fair and open elections.

Today, Congress resolves to complete our work in Joint Session to formally receive the votes of the Electors, which have not been disputed by any state. Our job is not to overturn the will of the voters or the states, it is simply to certify their decision on who will be the next President and Vice President of the United States. I urge all my colleagues to reject these frivolous and dangerous objections to the vote of the Electoral College and join with the country in supporting the peaceful transition of power. It’s time to get back to the business of the people and of the country as we build a better future.

#### CONGRATULATING SUMMIT COUNTY COMMISSIONER KARN STIEGELMEIER ON HER RETIREMENT

#### HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 6, 2021*

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, today I wish to recognize and honor the work of retiring Summit County Commissioner Karn Stiegelmeier. Karn has continuously devoted much of her time and energy to maintaining our beautiful public lands and environment in Summit County, Colorado—a community I am so proud to represent. Prior to serving as a County Commissioner, she worked for the National Forest Service and National Park Service, where she served in the crucial roles of wildland firefighter and park ranger, and also taught students in Summit County.

During her time as a Summit County Commissioner, Karn continued to advocate for the protection of our environment and was fiercely determined to preserve the precious quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. She also continuously advocated for forest health and wildfire prevention, both of which have helped Colorado’s Second Congressional District in incalculable ways.

She has truly shown an incredible determination to better her community, and I thank her for her many years of service as County Commissioner. I am grateful for all the work Karn has done during her time as a Summit County Commissioner and wish her a restful and well-deserved retirement from public service.

#### CONCERNS ABOUT THE CERTIFICATION OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE VOTE

#### HON. SCOTT DESJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 6, 2021*

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Madam Speaker, I rise to voice my concerns about the certification of the Electoral College vote.

First, I think it is imperative to highlight the importance of how our nation’s elections are conducted. I have received many calls, emails, letters, and I have spoken to many of my constituents who are concerned about the irregularities in the 2020 election cycle.

Today, I have many concerns about our most recent election, but my objection is focused on one primary constitutional question around changes to election laws made by state officials without the approval of their state legislatures. This is, of course, a legal question, concerning the constitutionality of last-minute election law changes made by executive orders without the approval of the state legislatures. Article II, Section 1 includes the “Electors Clause,” stating:

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

There is no question that changes in state election laws were made by executive orders without legislative approval (usually under the guise of COVID) to allow for ballots to be allowed after deadlines had passed and mail-ins and absenteees to be allowed under far more liberal circumstances which created an environment that allowed “vote harvesting” and thousands of ballots to be counted days and weeks after the election—without the requisite standards of verification that we should expect for a secure election.

It is a valid constitutional question and I note a recent observation by Justice Gorsuch in an unrelated recently decided case between the Brooklyn diocese and Governor Andrew Cuomo in New York on unlawful forced shutdowns:

“Government is not free to disregard the [Constitution] in times of crisis. . . . Yet recently, during the COVID pandemic, certain States seem to have ignored these long-settled principles.”

All of these issues are just some of the concerns and questions regarding the 2020 election and were not limited to these three states. Many other concerns of voting irregularities have been reported across the country including fraud and government officials changing state laws without legislature approval.

These are serious concerns and allegations. It should be the state legislatures, and not government officials or judges, making changes to election laws.

The timing of these election law changes is also problematic. In some states, changes were made to state election laws during the year of the election. These last-minute changes only allow for confusion and chaos, as we have seen since November 2020.

From a global pandemic to one of the most consequential Presidential elections in our lifetimes, 2020 was a year of many unknowns.

What should not be an unknown are the laws and rules states have on implementing our elections. However, the actions by many state officials and judges, along with improper voting activities, have allowed the 2020 Presidential election to be called into question.

It is because of these questions and irregularities, that I object to today's certification process and today, our challenge asks for a simple remedy—an appointment of an electoral commission that can hear the claims of election irregularities, review the evidence, and decide as to what the facts are and whether or not election laws were followed. I do not believe that to be an unreasonable demand.

I am proud to represent the state of Tennessee—a state that gets the election process done right and should be a role model for the nation. In addition to our open Election Day procedures, Tennessee provides a generous early voting process of 2 weeks in order for people to choose a day and time convenient to their schedule. In unique circumstances, there are also a number of statutory reasons where a citizen can request a mail-in or absentee ballot by mail and have their votes counted as well.

It is a process that works and is fair and equitable to everyone in the state. It is not unfair, it does not suppress voting, and it provides an orderly, secure method for conducting elections and counting votes in a timely fashion. Everyone has the ability to do their civic duty with a minimum amount of effort—no drama, no long lines and waits, and a process that is free and fair to all candidates. Votes are tabulated, and results are provided in a timely fashion on election night. It's not complicated, we have done this for many election cycles now, and we did not change our procedures on the fly in 2020.

We are very fortunate to do things the right way in Tennessee and we did once again in 2020. Sadly, there were a few states that got it wrong and call into question the integrity of the Presidential election. It is ridiculous and unacceptable in the 21st Century that other states have processes that lead to a situation where it took weeks to have votes tabulated, vote totals remaining uncertain, and the numbers of uncounted votes being uncertain for days—and weeks—after Election Day.

I respectfully and vigorously disagree with people who suggest that the processes that were opened and expanded in 2020 in many states are not subject to fraud and abuse—under these new standards ballots are mailed on behalf of people, ballots are sent to the wrong addresses, and ballot harvesting is encouraged. And again, one of the biggest problems with mail-in ballots is managing this process in a way that allows votes to be counted and winners to be determined in a timely fashion. It should not take weeks to determine a winner in state and federal races, and the prospects of all future Presidential elections being undecided for weeks on end leads to uncertainty and a lack of confidence in the results and the fairness of the process.

It is absurd. Even if you accept that everything is above board, no one should sit here and say that this process doesn't stink. Election reform is needed and the mail-in process will always be vulnerable to delays and the suggestion that foul play is involved—especially with the evidence being presented. Widespread mail in balloting with undefined

rules and limitations is a solution in search of a problem and is unnecessary to conduct a fair election in this country. We need a defined in-person voting process that includes early voting. We need voter ID requirements. We need a limited mail in ballot process that allows for absentee votes for military personnel serving overseas or away from their homes, people traveling abroad for extended periods, and those that have serious health issues that would legitimately keep them from being able to make it to the polls. Beyond that, people should take a brief moment out of their lives to show up and make an informed vote for the candidates and issues on the ballot.

Since the disputed Presidential election in 2000, this nation has spent billions upon billions of dollars for updated machines and processes, and 20 years later we are arguably in a worse position in terms of having a transparent process. There is no reason—NONE—that we can't have a procedure in this day and time to have almost all votes accounted for on Election Day.

We cannot keep conducting our elections in a way that does not provide surety and confidence in its results. We need uniform processes for our federal elections, and we need laws in place to ensure that all legal voters are given their constitutionally protected rights to participate in civic engagement, but not through a process in which votes are gathered and harvested without their participation in the process. Tennesseans demand this fair process, and I will always fight for it.

#### ELECTION IRREGULARITIES CANNOT BE IGNORED

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 6, 2021*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the objection. People across the United States are rightfully concerned about the mishandling of their votes and irregularities in the 2020 federal election. I share this concern given the incredible irregularities, additionally because the Constitution provides that election laws are the sole jurisdiction of state legislators which must be maintained, and not to be changed by obscure unilateral and judicial abuse with unfounded defiance of state laws. As a nation of laws, violence must never be excused by any one for any reason.

As a former Lexington County Election Commissioner, not just as a Member of Congress, I am disgusted at the irregularities in the 2020 presidential election. The failure to validate signatures, the omission of witnesses, the interruption of counting before completion, the denial of poll watchers for access to fully observe, the extension of ballots received beyond Election Day, and the registration of illegal aliens, allowing non-citizens to vote, are all an open invitation for fraud. I had counted on courts to fully consider lawsuits by 18 states and 126 members of Congress, but the Courts have declined to act.

In four states, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, the authority of the state legislatures to enact election rules and procedures, which is delegated by Article II, Section 1, Clause 2 of the Constitution was

unlawfully subverted. This is an unconstitutional act.

For these reasons, I will object to certification of the Electoral College.

#### SUPPORTING THE 2020 ELECTORAL COLLEGE OBJECTIONS

**HON. BOB GOOD**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 6, 2021*

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Madam Speaker, first, I want to thank the incredible men and women serving as U.S. Capitol Police for their dedicated efforts to keep everyone safe and to secure our Capitol.

On January 3rd I took an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution. The lawlessness that broke down our Capitol doors today is a reminder of just how sacred our duty is to uphold the rule of law. I want to extend my thanks to my colleagues who join me in continuing the constitutional duties of Congress and having this debate tonight with civility and without fear.

Tonight is about more than the 2020 presidential election; it is about all future elections, and Congress doing its constitutional duty to ensure election integrity, and not accept electoral votes from states with sufficient evidence of fraud that has not been fully investigated, and whose state legislators did not ensure the law was followed or ensure the integrity of their elections.

This challenge is not uncharted territory or a new exercise, as Democrats have objected on this floor to every recent presidential victory by Republicans, most recently challenging the electoral votes for 10 states following the 2016 presidential election, with their primary justification being the phony Russian collusion charges.

What is unprecedented about this presidential election is first, the number of people who believe the election was stolen, second, the amount of evidence that indicates fraud and other violations of election law that has not been investigated, and third, the number of members who are objecting to some of the electoral votes, a number not seen since 1876—or 144 years.

The 2005 bipartisan commission headed by Jimmy Carter and James Baker warned of this type of widespread voter fraud through illegal aliens voting, not requiring identification verification, and mass voting by mail.

These three issues clearly facilitate the compromise of election integrity.

Yet, there have not been any evidentiary hearings to even consider these allegations of voter fraud.

Georgia is one of the most egregious examples of violations of legal election procedures to the degree that it almost certainly determined the outcome of the election allegedly decided by a mere 12,000 votes.

The legislators in Georgia failed to protect and ensure the integrity of their election.

We, the Congress, are the forum for the voices of the American people. It is our responsibility to evaluate the validity of these electoral votes and to either accept them as legitimately cast or reject them as questionable or unreliable.

It is my judgment that the electoral votes submitted by the state of Georgia are unreliable and therefore should not be accepted.